

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 10, 2001 has been carefully considered.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Luttmer, while claims 3-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over the admitted prior art in view of Luttmer.

Claims 1-3 have now been canceled, and new claim 5 has been added to the application. Claim 5 recites the structures shown in Figures 1 and 2 in greater detail, and includes the base end connecting portion, the head end connecting portion, the intermediate portion and the branch portion. The specification has been amended to provide support for claim 5, and since the amendments only describe the structures which are clearly shown in the drawings, no new matter has been added to the application.

Claim 4 has been amended to use language commensurate with new claim 5.

Thus, the invention is directed to a connecting device comprising a pair of spring plates, each including a base end connecting portion, an intermediate portion, a branch portion and a head connecting portion. The intermediate portion and the branch portion form a L-shape, and the branch portion extends away from the other spring plate and is turned in a U-shape. Because the branch portion is turned in a U-shape, the

spring plates can be formed into a small size, with the branch portion having a large resiliency. A desired resiliency can easily be obtained so as to press the head end connecting portion against a terminal of a circuit at the proper pressure.

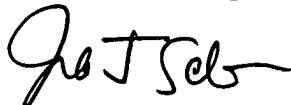
In addition, since the U-shaped portion is exposed, the resiliency can be adjusted as desired.

Luttmer does not disclose or suggest a connector with the presently claimed features. In particular, resilient connector 10 or 40 of Luttmer is embedded in an elastomeric material 21, and it is therefore difficult to provide a proper contact pressure at contact 13. Moreover, since the connector is covered by the elastomeric material, the resiliency cannot be adjusted.

Withdrawal of these rejections is accordingly requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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